A record of a day trip using a "South Pennine Day Ranger" ticket. Recalling many of the things we learnt along the way using photographs from participants.



Join U3A Railway Group for a day trip on Thursday 29th June 2017 🔫



## Where will we go?

To places we would not normally visited whilst living in Ilkley. The South Pennine Day Ranger ticket covers a wide area (see the map). We will use ours to travel along the Penistone Line from Huddersfield to Sheffield and then the Hope Valley Line from Sheffield to Manchester Piccadilly. Here we will take a Manchester Metrolink Tram to see the redevelopment of Manchester Victoria Station before getting the new direct service back to Leeds.

We will have the benefit of a commentary highlighting the many interesting features of our journey provided by members of the Railway Group and others using the U3A Tour Guide facility.

Organised by Ilkley U3A Railway Group and promoted as part of Ilkley U3A Summer School activities.



## 9 set off from Ilkley at 09:10 with another 28 joining on route





Arriving in Leeds but not on the usual platform.

However this is an opportunity to see the largest piece of street art in UK.







150 feet high & 36 feet wide.

An owl, alongside the moon and a crown was designed and drawn by a pair of artists known as Nomad Clan.

This 1960's office block was once criticised by John Betjeman saying it was only a testament to money and had no architectural merit.



## **Departing Leeds Station**

On 09:53 Trans Pennine Express to Huddersfield



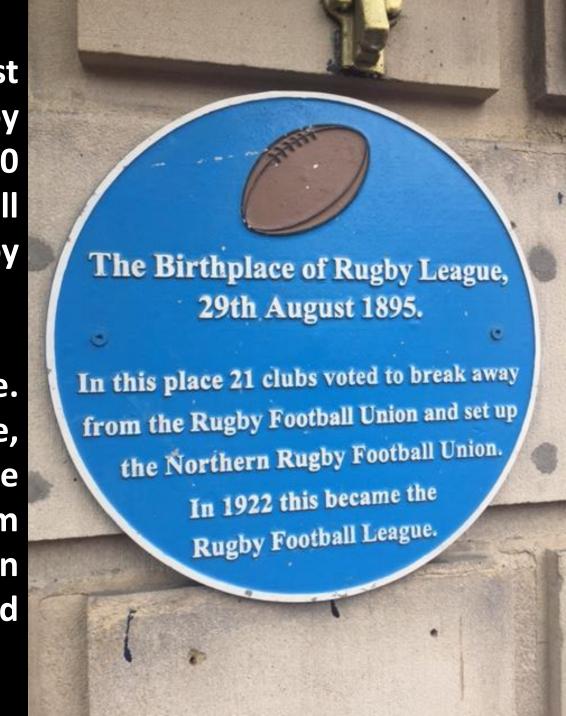


The George Hotel is a Grade II listed building. The 60 bed hotel built in 1851 and closed in January 2013. It was purchased by a local businessman for £900,000 with the aim of creating a boutique spa hotel of just 30 bedrooms. Nothing much seems to have progressed and now appears to be on the market for £3m.



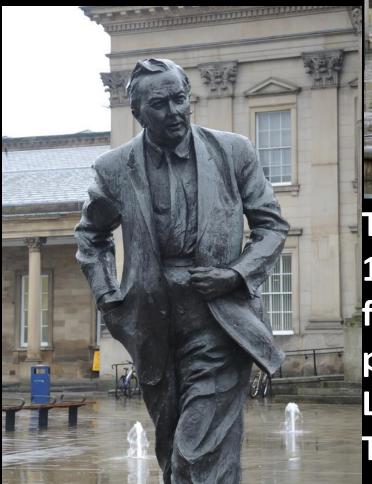
It was in the George Hotel, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1895 that 21 Lancashire and Yorkshire rugby clubs held a meeting and by a majority of 20 to 1 voted to secede from the Rugby Football Union to set up their own Northern Rugby Football Union.

An early example of the North South divide. Here rugby was largely a working class game, whilst the south clubs were largely middle class. In 1892, charges of professionalism were laid against rugby football clubs in Bradford and Leeds after they compensated players for missing work.



(James) Harold Wilson

Born 11<sup>th</sup> March 1916 4 Warneford Road Huddersfield



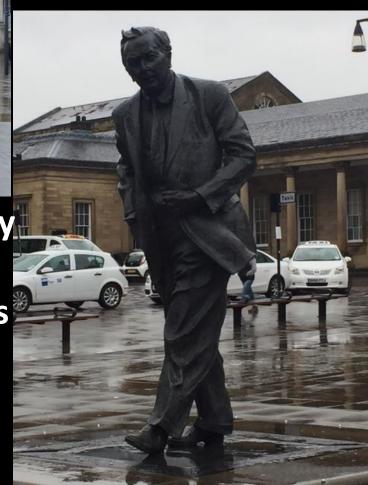


Tony Blair unveiled the statue in July 1999. The sculpture omitted the former PM's famous trademark - his pipe - at the request of his wife, Lady Wilson.

The 8ft bronze statue cost £70,000.

Baron Wilson of Rievaulx

**Died 24<sup>th</sup> May 1995** 





Huddersfield Station opened 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1847.

Using the neo-classical style, the station is well known in architectural circles for its classical-style façade.

It is a grade I listed building. The station frontage was described by John Betjeman as the most splendid in England and by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as 'one of the best early railway stations in England'.





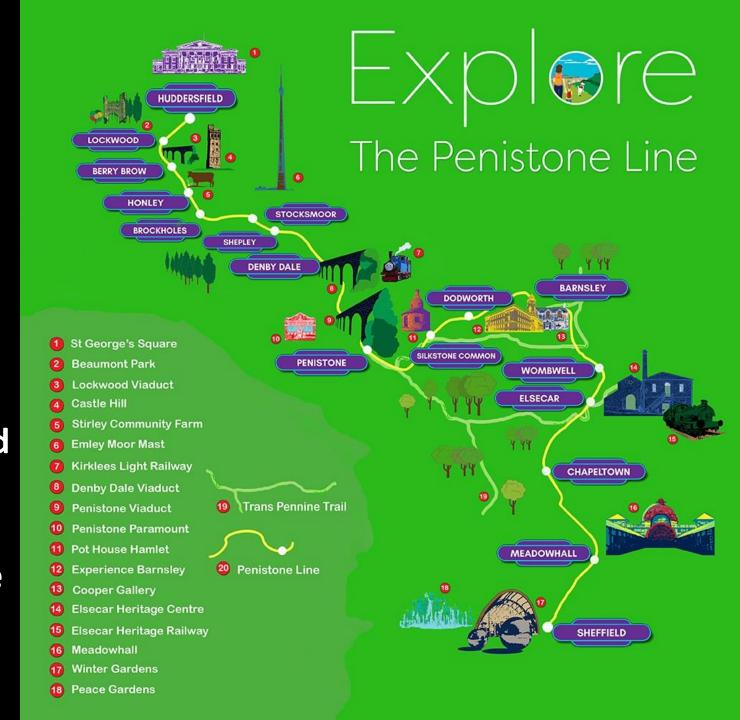




The station cat, Felix, joined the staff as a nineweek-old kitten in 2011. Since then she has patrolled the station to keep it free from rodents, and even has her own cat-flap to bypass the ticket barriers. In 2016 Felix was promoted to Senior **Pest Controller and has** her own hi-vis jacket and name badge. She has over 100,000 followers on Facebook

The first section of line between Huddersfield and Penistone was opened on 1 July 1850 by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

At Penistone, the route joins the former Great Central Railway line from Manchester, travelling eastwards. It deviates from the former main line towards Sheffield Victoria at a point once known as **Barnsley Junction. Beyond** Barnsley it takes a circuitous route via Wombwell before going south to Sheffield













We boarded a Trans Pennine Express service leaving Sheffield at 13:11 bound for Manchester Piccadilly. A busy train and no one took any photos!

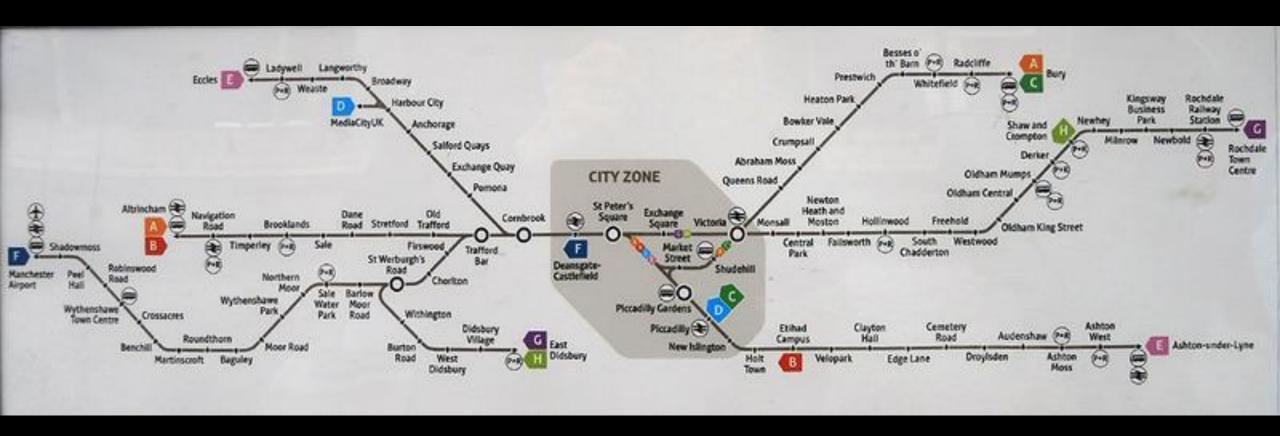
The Hope Valley line was completed in 1894. From Sheffield, trains head down the Midland Main Line through the south west of the city to Dore and Totley, where the Hope Valley line branches off to run through the Totley Tunnel, the fourth-longest tunnel in England. It emerges in the Hope Valley area of Derbyshire, where it passes through Edale before entering the two-mile-long Cowburn Tunnel.

From the western portal of the tunnel, the line runs through Chinley, then splits. The northern branch runs via New Mills toward Manchester Piccadilly. The southern branch passes through the Disley Tunnel before merging with the Buxton line and then heading to Stockport to join the main line to Manchester.

On arrival at
Manchester
Piccadilly the
Metrolink Tram
takes us across
the city to
Victoria Station.



Metrolink celebrates its 25th anniversary in April 2017. Owned by Transport for Greater Manchester the system has tripled in size over the past six years, making Metrolink the largest tramway in the UK.



The next phase is to extend the system to the Trafford Shopping Centre. When the line is complete, the network will consist of 99 tram stops & 120 trams.





The group arrives at Manchester Victoria looking hopefully for our guide



The redevelopment of the Metrolink Victoria stop has realigned the tram tracks into and though the station.



This provides increased capacity, necessary due to expansion of the network and creation of a second line crossing the city centre.



A reminder of how the trams and Victoria Station looked in 1992





In 2009, Victoria was voted the worst interchange station in the United Kingdom. The station underwent a two-year £44 million modernisation program which was completed in August 2015.

Peter Jenkins, of the architects BDP responsible for the redevelopment of the station, was our expert guide.

Passenger numbers are expected to rise from 7.5 million to 12 million per year once the Ordsall Chord is completed in 2018.

This will link Victoria and Piccadilly stations allowing through trains to directly serve many more destinations and significantly increase the number of trains that can be timetabled throughout the whole region.

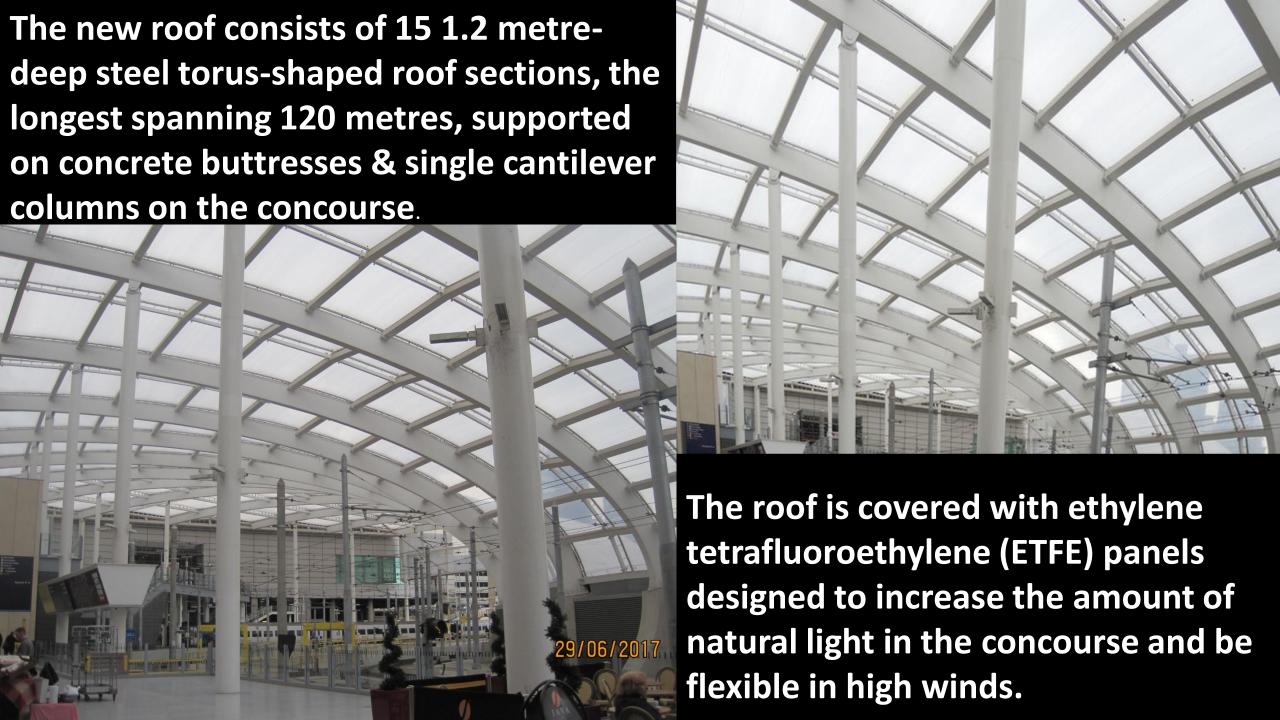




The project used computer modelling to improve the flow of people using the mainline railway, trams & 21,000 seat Manchester Arena, which shares the site.

Modernisation has been combined with conservation. Heritage features including the Edwardian neo-Baroque facade, WW1 memorial, tiled map of the L & Y Railway, the Victorian dome and the old ticketing hall were all preserved and restored.







The old station roof was supported by the station building at a lower level so, even though the old roof had no specific heritage value, it was decided to construct a zinc outline profile of the old roof onto the wall of the station building.





This zinc outline is illuminated by LED lighting at night to remind everyone what was there before. It seeks to enhance the new environment that has been created.



The original roof line is clearly visible.

Tiles contrast with rough brickwork above the original roof line.

The zinc outline is illuminated by LED lighting at night to remind everyone what was there before.









## A before and after comparison







Inside the original restaurants.







The original ticket office has been retained.









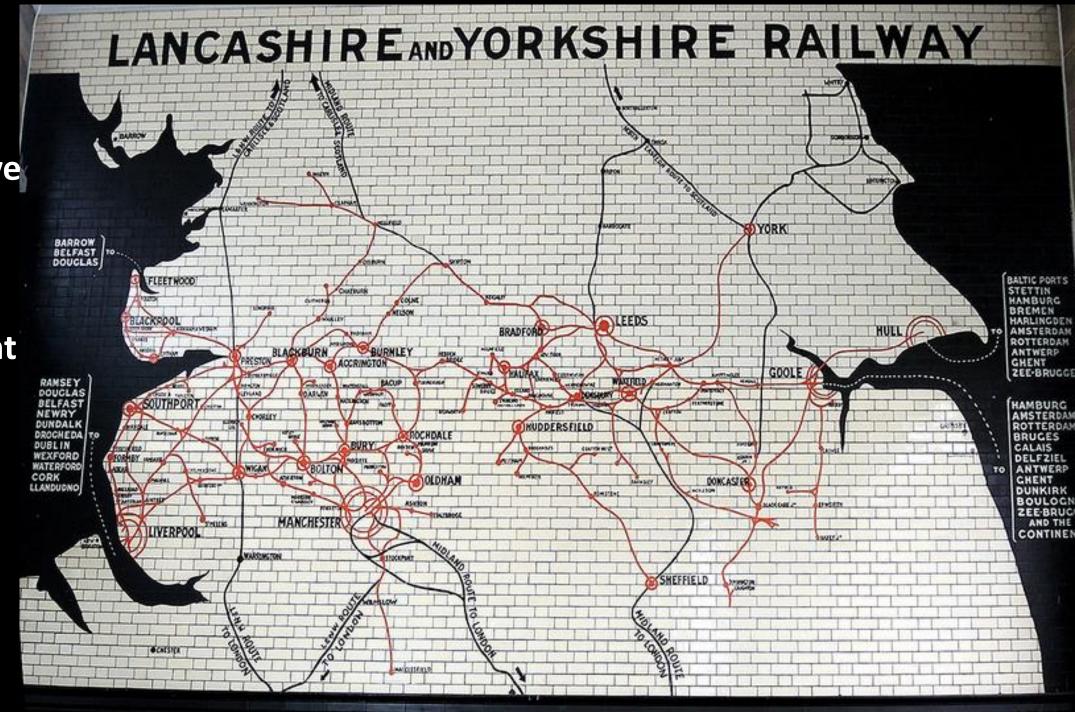
The L & Y route map with war memorial inscription underneath.







"Amateur" additions to this map have been left in place as a reminder of how different influences have shaped the look of the station over time.





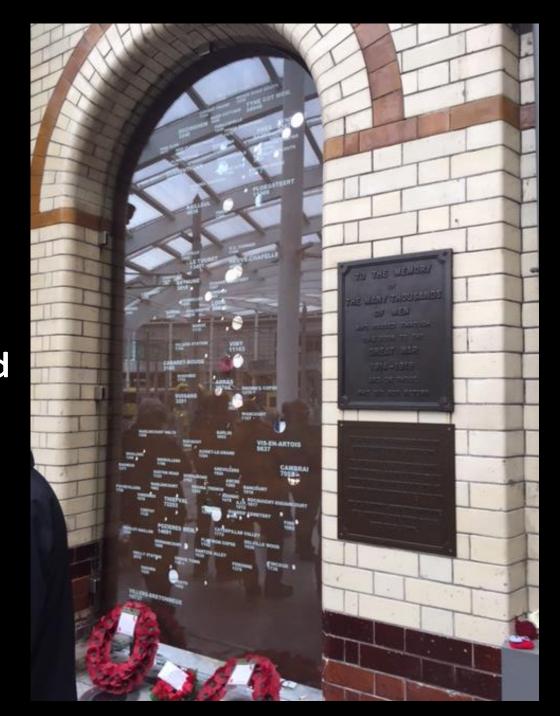
One of the options for the old offices at the front of the station is to convert to an hotel.

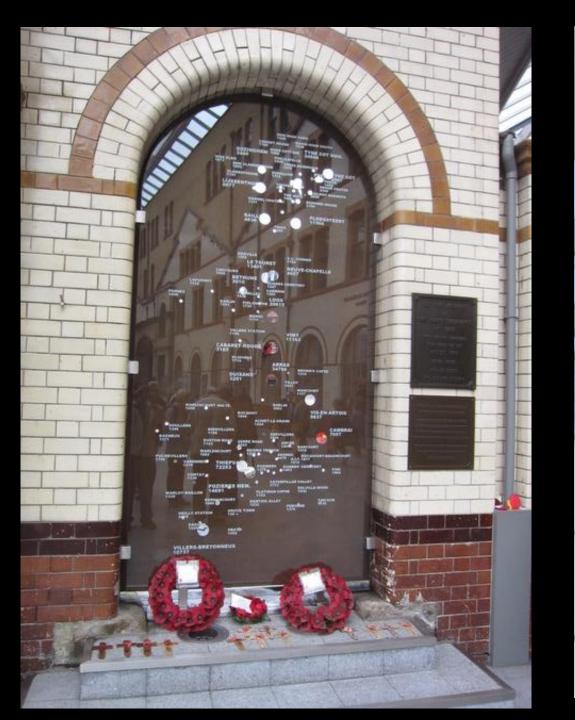




## The Soldier's Gate

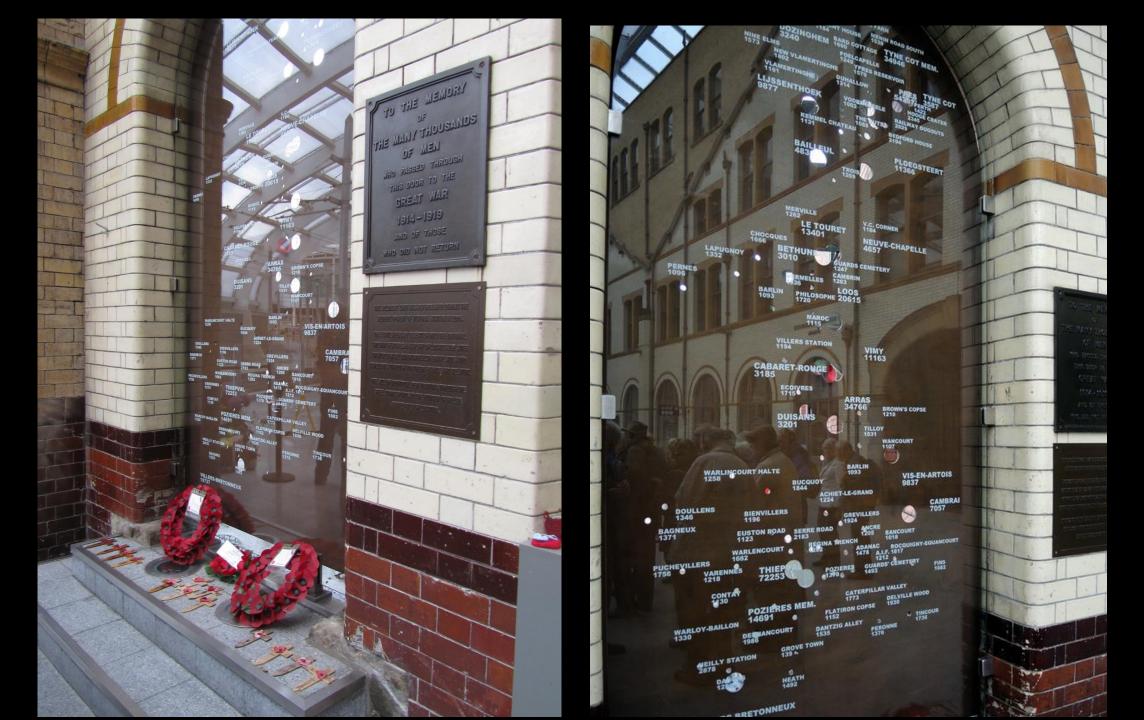
The stone across which the soldiers walked has been kept and a new commemorative feature has been incorporated into the gate. The contemporary insertion into the original gateway which locates the sites of World War I Commonwealth grave sites and cemeteries through Northern France and Belgium. Each is marked by a hole made through the door. The relative sizes of the individual penetrations through the steel corresponds to the numbers of fallen who are buried at each location.



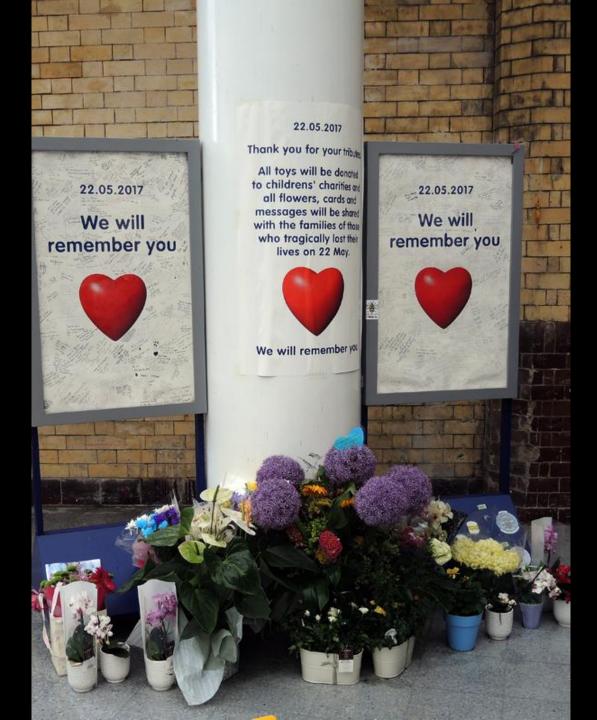








A reminder of the recent suicide bombing at the nearby arena.





Robin checks the time of the train back to Leeds whilst others return the tour guide receivers at the end of our trip.



